

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1

Article 2.4 Driver Safety

The Department of Motor Vehicles (department) proposes to amend section 110.04 of Article 2.4, Title 13, California Code of Regulations, relating to Disciplinary Guidelines (guidelines).

The amendments will update the guidelines for actions against the driving privilege based on physical and mental conditions as it relates to an applicant's vision. By capturing a greater amount of information relating to an applicant's vision condition, the department is able to provide better service to California drivers while promoting driver and public safety.

Amendments made to the vision guidelines include a revised Report of Vision Examination, Form DL 62 and revised vision condition charts.

§110.04. Disciplinary Guidelines.

Subsection (d) is amended to update the revision date of the Guidelines for Actions Against the Driving Privilege Based on Physical and Mental Conditions.

These disciplinary guidelines were revised in April 2007 to update vision standards for licensed drivers in California. The modifications were made to the Vision Conditions and Actions Chart to produce a comprehensive chart that eliminates redundancy, updates guidelines, actions and procedures for numerous vision conditions.

Prior versions of this chart displayed a page for each vision condition. Each condition was defined, and the severity, stability and functional impairments were categorized. The chart discussed actions to be taken under specific circumstances and explained possible driving restrictions. This version was extensive and much of the information contained was repetitive as most of the conditions share the same functional impairments and corrective actions.

The 2007 revisions divided the single, lengthy chart into three smaller charts categorized by Stable Vision Conditions, Progressive Vision Conditions and Other Conditions Affecting Vision.

The revised guidelines now consist of a definition and functional impairment chart and are followed by the vision conditions charts. The new format creates a concise, comprehensive method for locating and understanding each condition and actions being taken by the department for that specific condition.

Revisions were also made to the Report of Vision Examination, Form DL 62 (Rev. 4/2007). These revisions were made to allow the department to gather more information on an applicant's vision screening results than prior versions would allow. The updated form solicits a greater amount of information relating to the applicant's eye condition and contains a greater amount of information and instruction to the vision specialist on completing the form.

The Report of Vision Examination is now requiring the following conditions to be reported, if applicable:

- Albinism – An absence of pigment within the eye
- Corneal Opacity – A condition in which the cornea is normally clear but can become cloudy or opacified due to the presence of scar tissue, an injury or infection.
- Posterior Capsule Opacification (Post. Cap. Opac.) - Scar tissue developing behind the intraocular lens implants and can lead to blurring of vision.
- Retinal Damage – Areas of vision are lost from bleeding, swelling or scarring of the retina associated with inflammation, blood vessel damage or laser treatment.
- Quadrantanopia – Loss of corresponding quadrants of the visual field in both eyes.

These conditions involve functional impairments such as decreased acuity, glare resistance and glare recovery deficiencies, poor judgment of distance, visual field loss, reduced depth perception, and peripheral vision deficiencies. Identification of these conditions will aid the department in making a licensing decision which may include the impositions of driving restrictions.

By requiring these conditions to be identified by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and collecting more information on existing conditions, the department is better equipped to make an informed decision on whether a driver's vision condition impairs his or her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Vehicle Code Sections 13353.6 and 15250.5 have been struck out in the Authority and Reference portion of the text. Vehicle Code Section 13353.6 was repealed on January 1, 2006 and Vehicle Code Section 15250.5 was repealed January 1, 2002.